

GENERAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS

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| Introduction | 1. | These Regulations may be cited as General Fisheries Regulations. |
| | 2. | These regulations shall come into force on |
| | 3. | <i>Use of lights</i> |
| Bait fishing
Fishing beyond Maldivian waters | 4. | No Maldivian vessel shall fish beyond Maldivian waters except after obtaining approval from the Ministry. |
| List of conservation and management measures | 5. | |
| Fishing for exploratory purposes | 6. | |
| Recreational Fishing | | |
| Processing ,distributing marketing and trade of fish | 7. | Any party desiring <i>to fish</i> , process or export fish products shall obtain the approval of the Ministry prior to the commencement of such business. |
| Fish processing establishment | 8. | |
| Fisheries Advisory Board | 10. | |
| Fishing in the Lagoons | 11. | a. Fishing from the reefs of inhabited islands by people from another island can only be carried out after obtaining approval from the Island office of the particular inhabited island.

b. If the distance from the beach to the reef edge of the inhabited island is greater than 1,000m, fishing beyond 700m boundary of the reef extent may be open to all by the Ministry upon the request of the Atoll Office and in consultation with the Ministry of Atolls Administration.

c.If a reef area boundary needs to be demarcated between |

two islands within a reef system that have many islands, the boundary line shall be the median line of the reef area found in between the two islands to have equal reef extents to both of the islands. Such boundary line will be demarcated by the Atoll Office in accordance with the instructions from the Ministry.

d. Fishing from the reefs of a tourist resort shall only be carried out after obtaining permission from the tourist resort.

e. Fishing from the reefs of islands that are leased by the government and designated by the government for undertaking different activities, shall be carried out after permission from the lessees and those who look after the islands.

f. Fishing from individual reefs that are not part of an island, or sand bank or any other dry area is permitted.

g. Fishing other than by use of nets is permitted from the reefs of Male`. In order to catch fish from the reef of an island or from the lagoons joining the reef, use of *goni* shall only be carried out after obtaining permission from the island office in case of inhabited islands. from those who look after the island if it is an uninhabited island, or from the Atoll office if it is an isolated reef. If *goni* is placed, catching of fish within such *gonis* by other parties shall only be carried out after obtaining permission from the licensed party.

Activities Banned During Fishing

12. The following activities are banned during fishing:
1. Use of dynamite or any other explosive for fishing or killing of fishes
 2. Use of any kind of gun for fishing or killing of fishes.
 3. Use of any kind of poison for fishing or killing of fishes.
 4. Collecting of sea cucumber and lobster by using scuba diving gear.
 5. Use of nets to catch Mushimas (mackerel) schools that are found in the lagoons of inhabited islands.
 6. trawling in Dherahaa thila
 7. Use of moxy nets to catch small reef fish
 8. *Rodhulun*
 9. Sharks fisheries for a period of 10 years from 8 September 1998 in the area extending to 12 miles from the outer reefs of the following Atolls:
 1. Baa Atoll
 2. Lhaviyani Atoll
 3. Kaafu (Male`) Atoll
 4. North Ari Atoll
 5. South Ari Atoll
 6. Vaavu Atoll
 7. Seenu (Addu) Atoll

Species prohibited from catching, fishing, collecting or killing within EEZ

13. The catching, fishing, collecting or killing within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Maldives of the following marine species is prohibited.
1. Dolphins
 2. Whales

3. Female lobsters that have eggs under their stomach and lobster that have less than 35cm from head to tail
4. Triton shell
5. Giant clam
6. Black coral
7. Whale shark
8. Napoleon wrasse
9. Sea turtle for 10 years from 24 June 1995
10. Sea turtle and eggs (from G.A. Kuddoo and surrounding)

Reporting of contravention of fisheries laws 14.

Should it be an offence?

Marine Scientific Research 15.

a. Marine Scientific Research should be conducted in Maldivian marine zones after obtaining approval from the Ministry.

b. Application to conduct marine scientific research in Maldivian Marine Zones shall be made to the Ministry in the form set out in Annex 1.

c. Upon application to the Ministry to obtain approval the Ministry shall obtain the advice of Ministry of Defense and National Security, Ministry of Atolls Administration and Center for Historical and Linguistic Studies before granting approval.

d..Any party permitted to conduct scientific research shall:

- a. Provide the Government of the Maldives with copies of raw and processed data, representative samples

and interpretations at the end of each phase of the program and final results at the conclusion of the research project;

- b. Ensure that the research results and conclusions of the project of the direct significance for the exploration of the resources in the area shall not be published or divulged to a third party without prior express consent of the government of Maldives.
- c. Provide the Government of Maldives with quarterly reports on the progress of the project;
- d. Not make any changes in the project or allow participation in the research activities by any third party without the prior express consent of the Government of the Maldives.
- e. Allow inspection of the vessel(s) / equipped by the Maldivian Authorities prior to the commencement of the project and any time thereafter during the research period.
- f. Provide the exact track traversed by the ship during it's survey;
- g. Comply with all Maldivian laws and regulations relevant to activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone / the Territorial waters of the Maldives;
- h. Switch off all the systems onboard the vessel(s) doing survey work if so directed by the Maldivian Official onboard;
- i. Ensure that the Marine scientific activities will be carried out without causing interference, directly or indirectly, with the activities of the Maldives in the exercise of its sovereign rights, other rights and jurisdiction according to Maldivian laws and in

accordance with the U.N convention on the Law of the Sea.

- j. Ensure that Marine Scientific research will be conducted with due respect to the safety of navigation and human life on sea as well as protection of the marine environment including marine resources, both living and non-living;
- k. Ensure that the marine scientific research activities do not cause any damage to equipment/structure/installations located in the research area.
- l. Ensure that the research activities do not interfere with legitimate fisheries activities in the Maldivian Exclusive Economic Zone;
- m. Remove, if not otherwise agreed, on completion of the research, the anchorage and /or scientific equipment from the research area;
- n. Confirm that the proposed research shall not form the legal basis for any claim any parts of the sea or its resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Maldives; and
- o. To hand over any arms and ammunition on board the vessel to the Maldivian Government Authorities at the time of arrival in the first port in the Maldives. Arms and ammunition so handed over will be returned to the vessel at the time of departure from the Maldives.

eThe government of the Maldives reserves the rights to require the suspension / cessation / termination of any Marine Scientific research activities in accordance with Article 253 of the U.N Convention on the law of the Sea,

1982.

- Sighting of marine animals 16. If any party catches or sees a marine animal not usually found in Maldives Maritime Zone, should inform Ministry, the place where it was seen and its description. This information shall be sent through Atoll or Island Office.
- Exemption of Import Tax 17. TIMBER
- a.Import duty could be exempted up to 50% from timber imported for the purpose of building a fishing vessel.
- b.A vessel built in this manner should only be registered in the name of the person who obtained the approval or in the name of his mother, father, brother, sister or child.
- c.The vessel shall be registered as a mechanized fishing vessel within one year of granting such an exemption. Such a vessel should not be used for any other purpose other than fishing as a means of income generation for 4 years from the date of registration. If during this period the owner wish to sell the vessel or transfer the title to any other person other than the above said persons he could do so after paying the import duty for timber.
- d.Import duty could be exempted up to 100% for the engine brought for the purpose of fishing. A vessel built in this manner should only be registered in the name of the person who obtained the approval or in the name of his mother, father, brother, sister or child.
- If the engine is brought to build a new vessel, that vessel shall be built, engine installed and registered as a mechanized fishing vessel within 1 year of granting such an exemption. If for an existing vessel, the engine should be installed and vessel registered as a mechanized fishing

vessel within one month from the date of exemption. Such a vessel should not be used for any other purpose other than fishing as a means of income generation for 4 years from the date of registration.

If during this period the owner wish to sell the vessel or transfer the title to any other person other than the above said persons he could do so after paying the import duty of the engine.

Fsh Aggregating Devices

18. 17.Fish Aggregating Devices

a.Local fishermen may fish near the Fish Aggregating Devices installed by the. The installation and location of FAD's shall be announced. The type, size (estimated length and weight) and amount of fish caught within a 5 mile radius of the FAD shall be informed to the Fisheries Ministry through the island or atoll office. If any damage to FAD's is noticed, one should inform the island or atoll office or the Ministry, without delay.

c.It is prohibited to use drop line using live baits, catching of shark, trolling, using *thaavalhu* as bait and tying vessels to the buoy of the device, within a 3 miles radius of the device

d.A private parties desiring to install a FAD on its own expense may make a request to the Ministry. Half of the expenses incurred in the installation of the device shall be borne by the Ministry.Device shall be installed after making a survey and at a location Ministry deems fit to install the device. During the installation the party proposing should give whatever assistance it could. Local fishermen may fish near these devices and regulations that apply to devices installed by the Ministry would apply.

- Breeding of Turtles 19. No person shall breed turtles except after
- Celebration of Fisherman's Day 20. Private parties may not conduct activities to celebrate except after informing the Ministry.
- Fisheries Statistics 21. a. All fishing vessels of Male' shall submit fisheries statistics to the Ministry regarding the amount of fish catch. Fisheries statistics of fishing vessels going fishing in Male and uninhabited islands has to be submitted using the prescribed form. (FR-1)
- b. Fisheries statistics of fishing vessels going fishing in Male' has to be submitted to the Ministry not later than 7 days. Fisheries statistics for inhabited islands should be submitted not later than 7 days of its return. If a fishing vessel of Male', after fishing in an uninhabited island, instead of returning to Male' goes to an inhabited island, it should submit fisheries statistics to the island office, in order to be sent to the Fisheries Ministry.
- Fisheries statistics of vessels of other islands fishing in Male should be sent to Fisheries Ministry.
- c. A vessel shall be deemed to have gone for fishing only if it submits fisheries statistics to the Fisheries Ministry.

The following minimum data and information shall be provided at the time of application for permission to undertake Marine scientific research in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Maldives.

- p. Name of the sponsoring organization / individual(s)
- q. The names of the director and research staff of the project with their Bio Data.
- r. Nationality
- s. Whether the organization is a Government agency or a private institution.
- t. The nature, objectives and description of the research project with complete schedules of activities.
- u. The Precise geographical areas in which the activities are to be conducted, including routes and ports to be used during such research.
- v. The proposed ship's track showing the sequence of each leg to be traversed from the time ship leaves the last foreign port until it arrives at the next foreign port.
- w. The complete schedule of activities, including the expected dates of commencement and termination of the research project, the dates of laying and recovery of observation buoy and their positions, arrival and departure or removal of personnel, installations, vessels and other equipment and vessel to be used.
- x. Particulars of the vessel to be used;
 - 1. Name
 - 2. Title
 - 3. Signal letters
 - 4. Length
 - 5. Draught
 - 6. Tonnage
 - 7. Speed
 - I. Economical
 - II. Maximum
 - 8. Endurance
 - 9. Means of propulsion
 - I. Diesel, steam, nuclear
 - II. Horse-power
 - 10. Name of the flag officer, rank, seniority and designation.
 - 11. Name of the commanding officer, rank, seniority
 - 12. Number of officers
 - 13. Number of sailors

y. Details of the equipment to be used for research. The make and capabilities of the equipment should be given.

1. Bathymetric, echo sounder, precision, depth recorder etc.
2. Magnetic
3. Geological
4. Gravity
5. Biological
6. Chemical
7. Seismic
8. Meteorological
9. Physical (Temperature, Current, Conductivities etc)
10. Navigational Radar, (Loran, Omega, Inertial Satellite Receivers etc.)
11. Radars other than navigational radars fitted, purpose function made, model and frequency band.
12. Electronic devices eg. Instantaneous frequency measurement and analyzer equipment fitted on board, purpose, frequency, coverage etc.
13. Radio transmitters / receivers and D/F – number, Power output and frequencies covered
14. Data logging and processing equipment and details of Computers and interfaces
15. Oceanographic and Hydrographic winches
16. Sonar and TV equipment, acoustic monitoring and frequency analyzers fitted on board, purpose, frequency and brief description.
17. Any other items of under Water research such as STD probe, subscricibles etc.
18. Number of Maldivian officers and research scientists / hydrographres that can be embarked onboard the ship for the duration of research/ sty in the Exclusive Economic Zone/ the Territorial Waters of the Maldives, for participation in the research project, including, access to all research records simple etc. There shall be no charge for messing and accommodation.

Note: No. 1 e, f, h, o No.2 f, g, l and j 18 of this regulation apply only to ship based research.